



PEACE FIRST!

Action Update

No.26 **30p**
APRIL 96

"Build this Dam. We will go to war. And you will die." - Kayapo Indian, Brazil.



This month saw the evictions of all the remaining camps along the route of the proposed Newbury Bypass, and what follows is one persons account of that month.

March in Newbury was an intense month. In an attempt to carry out environmental destruction within the European Environmental Law on bird nesting season, the DoT have made the 'conscientious' gesture of trying to destroy bird nesting sites before they build their homes in them. They announced that work would stop on April 5th, and employed a determined eviction team to blunder through the series of 29ish camps along the 9 mile route (no one ever seemed sure just how many camps there were). Bailiffs, tree surgeons, chainsaw men, 'climbers' and mechanical dinosaurs with hoards of wage slaves, snooping detectives and blind upholders of 'justice' were all employed by the State to evict a determined and innovative force of tree defenders.

The pro-active actions of the early days, where the destroyers were penned in their compounds and hindered in their early morning convoys, gave way to a more defensive mentality as the daily uncertainty of where the eviction posse was going to strike caused rising levels of insanity. They adopted tactics of chaos, dotting around the route, evicting whole camps, half camps, having night time cordons, sending the police on in advance, making ambushes

and varying their times of arrival. Every eviction was different.

We developed various tactics and innovative defenses where, as well as the basic walkways and treehouse networks, there were tripods, platforms, tunnels, scaffolding poles extending from the tops of trees and various lock on techniques; and each of these worked with various degrees of effectiveness. Ground lock-ons at the base of trees and barrel lock-ons in the branches were particularly successful, with one tree lock-on lasting for six hours.

Last week a protestor was locked onto a platform attached to surrounding trees with one length of steel cable. Bailiffs scratched their heads a lot and eventually erected a scaffolding tower to get the person down. New ideas are often the best.

Richard Turner's 'climbers' are now all stinking rich, hated by more people than ever and banned from various climbing centres. Meanwhile some of the climbing community have been politicised with many of them having come down to the evictions in Newbury and confronted their soul-selling counterparts in the treetops. In Snelsmore particularly, the battles between climbers on both sides were intense and at least one of Richard Turners employees resigned that day. In general though, most of them seem to be hardening to their job and they are using increasingly unsafe practices and violence.

Despite the decline in media interest, wide support continued, with food, money, materials and visiting activists arriving from all over of the country.

Newbury businessmen declared that a high proportion of them opposed the bypass, and an interfaith gathering at Middle Oak brought people together from all beliefs to pay their respects to nature under attack.

Badgers resisted eviction in their Snelsmore setts and Vertigo Moulinsiana, a very small and rare snail managed to get Rickety Bridge a ten day stay of execution in the High Court. Thousands of baked beans also made their own protest against the bypass with many of them flinging themselves voluntarily out of the treetops and onto the heads of invading climbers.

There have been over 700 arrests during

the last 3 months, and excessive bail conditions have been used against us in an attempt to try and keep people away from the route.

By the last week in March large numbers of people were gathering at Rickety Bridge and what had been one of the last camps to be established became the site for the last big eviction lasting 3 days, with well over 150 people in the trees. This eviction was a little different, as it was no surprise when they arrived, and we welcomed them with the seven dwarves singing "hi ho, hi ho it's off to work we go" blaring over the sound system!

Camelot and King Arthur were evicted on April fools day, followed by the trees at Castlewood and Tot Hill. Mary Hare was saved (actually it turned out that it was off route) and the beautiful Middle Oak has been 'spared' and is now destined to live in the middle of a monster road junction.

All the camps are now evicted, trees lie fallen and funeral fires burn. But off route camps have been set up, sculptures are appearing in the wreckage and people are recuperating their energies. Ding Ding round 2.

So the route is cleared, but strangely none of the contractors are very keen to win the next phase of the contract. Are the DoT being realistic about actually building the road as we hear that they're not doing so well with the M11?

On April 3rd Blandy went to Middle Oak to announce that all the cleared areas were now the property of the DoT, but millions of news viewers across the nation were to see his humiliating retreat from a group of protesters, with his police escort having to run alongside his Landrover to keep up!

If anyone wants to go around to his house for tea and cake the address is: Malthouse Cottage, Nettlebed, Nr Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire. It might also be good to go and visit Richard Turner Ltd at 101 Couple Lane, Old Tupton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, tel 01246 861 738.

Have a good rest and extended cup o' tea sessions.

Watch out too for the letting of the new contract sometime in April/May, and contact 01635 45544 for further campaign info.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Kings Cross Womens Centre in London was evicted on the 25th March. They are in a temporary building until they find somewhere more permanent. The support and services that they offer are still ongoing. Tel. 0171 624 3577 to get in touch.

Number 5 of the irregularly produced journal of the UK EF! movement, Do or Die, is an essential read covering topics varying from Biodiversity fragmentation to international actions against Mercedes. Available from South Downs EF! for £1.70 inc. p&p (blank PO's are best).

Out of the 55 arrests made at Whatley Quarry, 22 have been tried so far. Two trials have been abandoned, 19 found guilty, all were fined, one was found to be innocent. A Bust fund is being set up to help with fines, please call 01749 880480 if you can help. Donations greatly appreciated.

Work on the Bathaston Bypass was recently disrupted to mark two years of direct action against its construction. The road is due to be officially opened in June '96. Avon Gorge Earth First! are planning a massive 'Reclaim the Streets' to celebrate! Contact AGEFI and get on the phone tree now.

A store of 'tat' that can be used on camps is being set up in London. When vanloads are accumulated they can be taken to any of the camps in Britain when needed. If you'd like to donate (or receive) call Crissi on 0171 737 0401.

Rumour has it that the eviction of the A30 Fairmile camps could be in May. For the latest info call (01404) 815 729.

Toxcat, the newsletter providing info on all aspects of the toxics issue, is available now. Send a £2 cheques/Postal Orders to: P.O. Box 29, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral, L66 3TX.

Anyone in Bradford has a great resource at hand 'The Commonwealth Collection'. It is a voluntary library which specialises in the subject of non-violent social change. Although housed in the university it is open to the public and has over 10,000 books & 200 current journals. They are now keen to put more emphasis on the green movement. Also good to add to lists for mailouts etc. Tel 01274 383404.

"Industrial Society and It's Future", the 35,000 word article that was published by major US newspapers after a 'request' by the Unabomber is available for £1.50 from: GAMO, PO Box 407, Camberley GU15 3FL. Send a postal order and use a false name and secure address when ordering.

SHELL

More problems with Shell - this time in Turkey. By their own admission they have been polluting the water supply to the Kurdish city of Diyarbakir for over 30 years. Meanwhile 19 Ogoni are still being held in Nigerian police cells on the same charges as the nine Ogoni activists that have already been murdered. There will be a debate on oil in Nigeria at the Royal Geographical Society in London on April 15th (tickets £5) with a speaker from Shell. There is also the Shell AGM in London on May 15th. Anyone with shares (or wanting one) please call 01865 721224. There will also be actions outside. Delta now have a comprehensive newsletter dealing with Shell, the Ogoni and Nigeria, add yourself to the mailing list by calling 0116 255 3223.

EF! GATHERING - NEWBURY

There was supposed to be a National EF! gathering on the weekend of the 22nd- 24th March. Due to the main organiser disappearing (nothing sinister though) this had to be seriously scaled down, leaving many people disappointed. All was not lost as it was Newbury, where there was lots to be done as always. Also on the Sunday a planning meeting for the BIG Summer gathering for the 12th- 18th June took place. By the end of the afternoon it was already looking good with many people volunteering to help out.

Just to say on the subject briefly that it is probably a good idea not to call an action/gathering 'National' unless it had been a decision made by many groups together. That way you will know there are lots of people committed to making it a success/happen. When one person has all the responsibility it can be (and usually is) a little too much and things may not happen thus putting people off attending future well organised events / actions.

EF! SUMMER GATHERING

The site for the EF! international summer gathering is set for a beautiful remote location in North Wales. The exact location will not be publicly announced until the day, but it will be easily accessible by public transport and road. There will be a meeting point a few miles from the site which the location of which will be announced in next months action update. The gathering will be from the 12-18th of June and will provide: training and discussion on direct action campaigning; a meeting point for UK and international activists; practical conservation work and many other events. Money is desperately needed and any fund-raising ideas or donations contact: EF! Gathering, PO Box 7, Cardiff, CF2 4XX. Please make cheques payable to Earth First! Contact 01749 812265 with any offers of help, workshops or distribution of flyers. Contact 0171 249 9114 for general enquiries.

US EF!

At the EF! activist conference held recently in the US, the talk was of how impressed people have been with the Newbury campaign and they are keen to learn from the successes and failures. A roadshow is now being planned in the US to bring over to the UK. The main focus of the tour would be a slide show and actions about rainforest pulp used in England, from British Columbia and "radical eco-music". Any groups/individuals that can help on this side with logistics, organisations and ideas please call Jordan on 206 517 5071 or email to jiks@speakesy.org.

TARMAC AND MOD

Thirty Ministry of Defence police officers joined the direct action against road building last month by occupying offices of Tarmac & Matthew Hall (Amec subsidiary) and seizing documents. Tarmac and Matthew Hall have been accused of "financial irregularities" over the construction of the Coulport nuclear armaments depot (yet another environmentally damaging project) where costs have risen from 58 million to 108 million (of tax payers money).

This is all part of the Trident nuclear submarine development which the MOD overspent on construction costs by 800 million last year & were accused of "mismanagement on a grand scale" by the public accounts committee. The MOD are so concerned that they have set up a phone line for anyone to reveal "irregularities" on multi million pound defence construction! Any dirt anyone? It seems that no-one trusts Tarmac and Amec.

SCRAPPIT

Siston Common & Railway Path Public Info Team are campaigning against the Avon Ring Road Stage II, a route that puts Bristol and Bath's favourite cycle way and footpath under threat. It would wipe out a 1km section of the path, slice Siston Common in half, sever the route of the old railway and destroy an ancient dramway and railway and wildlife habitats. Work should have started in March but SCRAPPIT has filed a legal challenge. The campaign meets every Sunday at 7.30pm at the Kebele vegan centre on Robertson Road, Easton. Funds, activists, ideas and all sorts of support needed especially with court costs. Please help if you can in any way. Contact SCRAPPIT campaign, c/o 84 Colston St., Bristol, BS1 5BB.

LIVE EXPORTS

It has been one year since live exports resumed in Dover and they are still ongoing. Each shipment of animals is met with a demonstration. Unfortunately numbers are not high as local support has been poor, though they have had much needed support from visiting friends. There will be a mass demonstration on the 19th April (the official day to mark 1 year of protests). Please go and show your support. They need as many people as possible, they have to show that this issue will not go away until live exports have been banned. Congregate at Dover Eastern Docks in the morning (from 8am onwards). Parking available at Dover leisure centre, Woolcomber St., Dover, Kent.

BIG GREEN GATHERING

This year it will be taking place between 24-28th July in Wiltshire. Earth First! will be there and taking part with stalls and workshops. Limited number of tickets available at the discounted price of £25 for people on benefits, but remember Earth First! neither condemns nor condones jumping the fence! Contact 01747 870 667 for further details.

FASLANE PEACE CAMP

The camp faces eviction after the new local council refused to renew their lease after pressure from the Roads dept., that say they want the land that the camp occupies to be tarmaced over as part of a road widening scheme. Faslane have a week of action planned from the 22nd-26th of April to remember the Chernobyl disaster. Tel 01436 820901.

HOW TO CONTACT THE EARTH FIRST! ACTION UPDATE

By Post: Earth First Action Update, PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY. By Phone: 0171 249 9114 By E-Mail: actionupdate@gn.apc.org . Please enclose a SAE for replies, and to subscribe to the free e-mail server - send us your details.

GREEN TERRORISM?

The recent front page article in the *Guardian* newspaper (27th March 1996) reports an alleged attempt by various chiefs of police to request that the anti-terrorist branch starts monitoring green activists. While this may come as a surprise to some (both 'why monitor us we're not terrorists' and 'are we not being monitored already?') it is only the latest in a long line of articles that are trying to push green/direct action and animal liberation activities into the category of terrorism. One purpose of these articles is to try and disrupt our increasingly effective and popular movement by trying to split us into factions along lines that the state sets, in the case of this article, and others before it, between activists that have differing views on violence as a tactic of resistance.

While this article, like others before it, has produced widespread criticism (see for example *The Guardian* letters column, 30th March 1996) this criticism is not something that we, as radical ecologists, should be joining in with. Our response should not be to play into their hands by denouncing the people in our movement that argue that there is a place for violent resistance in some circumstances nor should it be to lie, as some have, and say that everybody in the green movement is committed to non-violence in every scenario. This article, however, is not to debate the validity of various forms of resistance but to suggest what our response should be to the increasing surveillance and repression that our movement is attracting.

We suggest that our response should be twofold. Firstly, as said earlier, we should not be denouncing people in the movement purely because of different opinions on which tactics to use in defence of the natural world. There is room in this movement for all responses to ecological devastation and we must not divide ourselves on small issues when we agree on nearly everything else. To do otherwise is to play directly into the hands of those that seek to destroy the entire movement. While we should obviously not welcome this increased repression and surveillance we must realise that we are attracting it because we are becoming increasingly effective and popular. If we were ever to evolve beyond a relatively small number of people with comparatively little influence into a mass movement it was inevitable that we were going to attract this type of response from those that put profits before life. In reacting to this increased attention we must not deny our potential as a force for real and lasting change but instead to embrace it and draw up the battle lines between ourselves and those that want to destroy us.

Our second response to these developments should be a reappraisal of our personal and group security. If anybody is any doubt over the lengths that the state will go to destroy radical groups they should look at recent history in the United States and the way that groups such as the Black Panthers, The American Indian Movement, MOVE and Earth First! have been treated over there.

At the very least our response should be to assume routine interception of mail, tapping of our phones and investigation by state agencies or private detective firms into individual activists and groups. The most simple measures can make life harder for them. One measure that people can and often take is covering up their faces on actions and demonstrations when cameras are present (for example there were four Special Branch photographers at the Whatley quarry action in December last year). In some cases this is a sensible thing to do but be aware that it can look intimidating and can alienate many people that may otherwise get involved with us. One measure that everybody should be taking is to be far more careful about what is said over or even near a phone. In addition to this people should be trying to use a secure address as a postal contact point. A few simple measures can make it harder to identify activists and to work out where that next action of yours is going to be.

In becoming more aware of our security we need to be careful that we do not fall into the traps of firstly becoming so paranoid that we become inactive and secondly, but equally importantly, we need to make sure that our increased awareness over security matters does not lead to people falsely accusing others of being state infiltrators. either of these things will lead to mistrust between people and internal disputes in groups, in which case we will have done the work of those that want to destroy us.

Further reading on the states response to radical groups and how we can protect ourselves:

COINTELPRO Papers: Documents from the FBI's secret war against dissent in the United States by Ward Churchill and Vander Wall (South End Press: Boston)

Do or Die : voices from Earth First! (number 5) 'Police raid Green Anarchists' article by Oxford Green Anarchists

Eodefence: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching (Third Edition) edited by Dave Foreman and Bill Haywood (Abbzug Press: California) 1993 - especially chapter 9 on security.

Turning up the Heat: MI5 after the Cold War by Larry O'Hara (Phoenix Press: London) 1994

War at Home: Covert action against US activists and what we can do about it by Brian Glick (South End Press: Boston) 1989

Without a Trace (anonymous)



Most of these texts are available from AK press or DS4@ distribution (apart from Do or Die which is obtainable from South Downs Earth First!). For a more comprehensive list of titles that are available dealing with state repression of groups and how to counter it write to the Earth First! Action Update enclosing a SAE.

EF! CONTACTS APRIL '96

A30 Action
PO BOX 6
Ottery St. Mary
Devon. EX11 1YL
01404 815729
Mobile 0385 278156/7

An Talamh Glas
c/o Anne
Abbey Street
Ballinrobe
Co Mayo
Eire

Avon Gorge EF!
Box 51
Greenleaf Bookshop
82 Colston Street
Bristol BS1 5BB
01225 448556
01225 314040

Belfast EF!
c/o 3-5 Denegal Lane
Denegal St
Belfast

Birmingham EF!
c/o 115 Alcester Rd
Moseley
Birmingham B13
0121 449 5452

Caledonian Green Circle
67 Burgh Drive
Linthouse
Govan, Glasgow.

Cambourne EF!
c/o Weaver-En
13 Rosemary Fields
Cambourne
Cornwall. TR14 8DA
01209 710548

Cambridge EF
Box E
12 Mill Road
Cambridge.
01223 69347
tgs1001@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Cardiff EF!
PO Box 7
Cardiff, CF2 4XX

Cardigan Bay EF!
c/o Box E
Oakridge
Taliesin
Machynlleth
Pwys. 78 JW
rck3@aberystwyth.ac.uk

Cheltenham Eco-Network
c/o The Basement
1 Portland Square
Cheltenham
Glos. GL52 2HT

Chichester EF!
c/o Chichester Hunt Sabs
PO Box 99
Chichester
W. Sussex PO19 4GL
01243 771640/533850

Cisbury Ring EF!
c/o Prior House
6 Tilbury Place
Brighton BN2 2GY

Connemara Talamh Glas
Turlach
Rosmuc
Co Galway, Eire
00 353 (1) 91 574029

Dart Valley EF!
c/o SWAN
PO Box 4
Buckfastleigh
Devon TQ11 0YZ

Doncaster EF!
c/o 54 Wellgate
Conisbrough. DN12 3HN

Tel: 01302 882471

Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon
Helensburgh
Dunbartonshire
Scotland. G84 8HT
01436 820901

Felixstowe EF!
'Merrow'
Felixstowe Ferry
Suffolk IP11 9RZ
01473 274153

Glasgow EF!
PO Box 180,
Glasgow, G4 9AB.
0141 226 5066

Gwynedd EF!
c/o 8 Victoria Place
Bethesda
Gwynedd LL57 3AG
01248 600286

LEAF
Box Z,
13, Biddulph St
Leicester LE2 1BH
0116 255 3223
Fax: as phone

Leeds EF!
16 Sholebrook Ave
Chapelton
Leeds LS7 3HB
0113 262 9365
cornerstone@gn.apc.org

Lune EF!
c/o 78a Penny St.,
Lancaster. LA1 1XN
01524 383163

Manchester EF!
Dept 29, 1 Newton St
Manchester M1 1HW
0161 274 4665
coniberr@cs.man.ac.uk

Merseyside EF!
PO Box 187
160 Mount Pleasant
Liverpool L69 7BR
0151 794 4167

Mid-Somerset EF!
PO Box 23
5 High St
Glastonbury
Somerset BA6 9PU
01458 831545

Newcastle EF!
4. The Cloth Market
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
NE1 1EA
0191 273 4997

No M11 Link
Wanstead Environment Centre
1A High Street
Wanstead
London. E11
Info: 0181 5322811
Actions: 0181 5188222

No M66
14 Eaton Ave.
Oldham. OL8 4HR
0161 628 4727

Norwich EF!
The GreenHouse
48 Bethel St
Norwich, Norfolk
01603 631007
Fax: 01603 666879
nen@gn.apc.org

Notts EF!
Box EF!
180 Mansfield Rd.
Nottingham
0115 958 5666

Oxford EF!
Box E
111 Magdalen Rd
Oxford, OX4 1RQ
01865 721898

Reading EF!
Box 56
Rising Sun Institute
30 Silver St
Reading RG1 2ST

Reclaim the Streets
PO BOX 9656
London N4 4YJ
0171 281 4621
rts@gn.apc.org

Residents Against the M74
c/o Larkfield Centre
39 Inglefield Street
Govanhill
Glasgow G32 7AX
Tel: 0141 424 1797

Sedgemore EF!
8 Isle Port Road
Highbridge
Somerset TA9 4QX
01278 787148

Sheffield EF!
c/o Shefin
201 Crookes Valley Rd
Sheffield S10 1BA
0114 2671200
bjgoss@pine.shef.ac.uk

Solsbury Hill Action Group
c/o 103 Ringswell Gdns
Bath, Avon. BA1 6BW
01225 448556

South Downs EF!
c/o Prior House
6 Tilbury Place
Brighton BN2 2GY

Staffs Earth Action Net.
c/o Stoke-On-Trent College
S.U.
Howard Place
Stoke Road
Shelton
Stoke-On-Trent. ST1 4LY
01782 603656
Fax: 01782 260818

Swansea Freedom Collective
PO BOX 235
Mumbles
Swansea SA3 4YY
sa3thomp@swansea.ac.uk

The Flat Oak Society
c/o 3 St Alphege Lane
Canterbury
Kent. CT1 2EB
01227 463368
Mobile 0973 262259

Third Battle of Newbury
PO BOX 5520
Newbury. RG14 7YW
01635 45544
Fax: 01635 45545

Upper Nene EF!
Box E.
24 St. Michaels Avenue,
Northampton NN1

Wolves EF!
c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs
Box H
Wolves University Students
Union
Wulfruna St
Wolverhampton

York EF!
c/o York LEAF,
Unit of York Union,
Heslington,
York YO1 5DD
01904 634073
socs203@york.ac.uk

SUPPORT GROUPS

Corporate Watch
Box CW
111 Magdalen Road
Oxford. OX4 1RQ
01865 245016

Dead Trees EF!
c/o South Downs EF!

Do or Die
c/o South Downs EF!

DELTA
Box Z
13, Biddulph Street
Leicester LE2 1BH
Tel: 0116 255 3223

Direct Action Direct!
c/o Chichester EF!
PO BOX 99
Chichester
W. Sussex. PO19 4GL

Earth First! Action Update
PO Box 9656
London N4 4YJ.
0171 281 4621
ActionUpdate@gn.apc.org

Earth Liberation Prisoners
c/o Mid-Somerset EF!
P.M.Blackmore@ncl.ac.uk

Road Alert!
PO Box 5544
Newbury
Berkshire RG14 5FB
roadalert@gn.apc.org

Toxic Alert!
Dept 96
1 Newton St
Manchester M1 1HW

INTERNATIONAL

Earth First! Journal
POB 1415
Eugene OR 97440
USA
00 1503 7419191
earthfirst@igc.apc.org

Australia EF!
Canopy
POB 1738Q GPO
Melbourne 3001
Victoria. Australia
(061) 3 3547972

EF! France
BP 631-
53006 Laval Cedex
France

Germany EF!
c/o Avalon
Friedrich-Ebert-Str. 24
45127 Essen
Germany

Anand Skiria
PB#14
Cochrin 682001
Kerala
India
(0091) 484 25435

Volunteers for Earth
Defence
189 San Antonio
Ext. SFDM
1105 Quezon City
Philippines

Workshop for all Beings
ul. Modrzewskiego 29/3
43-300 Bielsko Biala
Poland
Fax: (0048) 30 29496

Rainbow Keepers
POB 14
Nizhny Novgorod 603082
Russia
(007) 8312 343280
tretyup@glas.apc.org

Slovakia EF!
A.Hlinku 11
96001 Zvolen
Slovakia

Manuel A. Dernandes
Taller de E.A.A
CURUXA
J.B.Xelmirer J
Campus Universitario
1570 S Santiago
Spain
(0034) 81 584321

Morgan Larsson
Lagmansgatan 9C
46 37 Vanersborg
Sweden

Rainbow Keepers
c/o Nadia Shevchenko
Glushkova 17-22
Kiev 252187
Ukraine
(007) 044 2669310
nadja@glas.apc.org

Fax: 0171 326 0353
contraflow@phreak.
intermedia.co.uk

Counter Information
c/o Transmission
28 King St
Glasgow. G1 5QP

The Ecologist
Agriculture House
Bath Road
Sturminster Newton
Dorset. DT10 1DU
01258 73476
ecologist@gn.apc.org

Freedom Network
PO BOX 1
London. SW9 7ZB
0171 582 3474
Actions: 0171 793 7343

Green Anarchist Network
BCM 1715
London. WC1N 3XX

Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.
PO BOX 1
Nottingham. NG4 2JY
01159 590357

Justice?/Cothron
c/o Larkfield Centre
39, Inglefield Street
Glasgow G42
Tel: 0141 226 5066
/424 1797

Justice?/Schnews
PO Box 2600
Brighton
E. Sussex BN2 2DX
01273 685913
justice@intermedia.co.uk

Legal Defence & Monitoring
Group
BM Box Haven
London. SW1X 3NN
0181 802 9804

London Greenpeace
5 Caledonian Rd
Kings Cross
London N1 9DX
0171 837 7557

Menwith Womens Peace
Camp
A59 Lay-By
Nr. Menwith Hill Spybase
Nr. Harrogate
N. Yorks
01943 468593

The Land is Ours
Box E
111 Magdalen Road
Oxford OX4 1RQ
01865 722016

Undercurrents
16b Cherwell St
Oxford. OX4 1BZ
01865 203661
Fax: 01865 243562
undercurrents@gn.apc.org

WHO ARE EARTH FIRST?

Earth First! is a network of independent groups who believe in doing just that-putting the earth first. It is based on a concept of non-hierarchical organisation, direct action, and the empowerment of individuals to confront the ecological catastrophe facing our planet. The above contacts are groups in this network or groups with a common aim. Let Earth First! Action Update know of any alterations/additions/removals from the list. Alterations from last months are shown in bold and underlined groups may no longer exist. Telephone numbers given for international contacts include UK dialling codes. Please note that the international contacts given are not "in charge" of each country's actions but simply represent a way in to their direct action network.



LAND OCCUPATIONS

There is a land occupation in the Sherwood Forest from 23rd April to the 1st May. A major trunk road is planned through the forest joining the M1 to the A1 including 5 industrial developments on the route. Please contact 0585 620714 or The Land is Ours for more info.

The Land is Ours also have a major urban occupation coming up on May 5th, supported by people from all campaigning backgrounds. It will hopefully trigger off a national debate on the subject of Land Reform in cities. The aim is, in the course of a week, to turn a derelict site into a permanent sustainable village for all who want to stay on & help make it work. Coaches leave at 10am, on Sunday the 5th of May from 190 Shepherds Bush Rd., London, W6. For more info please contact The Land is Ours on 01865 722016.

BRIGHTON SQUATTERS FIGHT BACK

The Squatters Estate Agency in Brighton was evicted on 4th March following a previous attempt where bailiffs had been fought off by determined squatters. Not to be beaten, the Brighton crew opened up a new squat called the 'The Coppe Shoppe' at 72 Trafalgar Street just below the station. This new squat is aimed at promoting education in the movement and importantly – providing free tea! Pay them a visit next time you're in Brighton.

ANTI-JSA ACTIONS

On April 1st activists went around various government departments in London distributing leaflets and trying to speak to people on the subject of the JSA. Also on Tuesday 9th April there was a national demonstration in London against the JSA. Approximately 300 people

marched from south London to Westminster Hall. After a brief rally in the hall about 150 people left by the back door to visit the conveniently located Department of Employment. 50 people briefly occupied the building and disrupted work. For more info and leaflets about the JSA and how it will effect us and to find out your local Anti-JSA group contact: London Against the JSA, P.O. Box 3140 London E17 5LJ.

RESIDENTS AGAINST THE M74

Activism in Glasgow has been going strong with street blockades and parties in March along with well-attended public meetings. A Schnews style weekly newsheet called Cothrom ('Justice' in Gaelic) has also been set up. One of the main aims of the campaign is to link democracy issues with anti-road and land right campaigns.

A big action is planned for April, contact RAM74 for details 0141 424 1797/423 2823 - Cothrom can be contacted on 0141 226 5066/424 1797 (contact list has address).

RECLAIM THE LAND

A small reclaim the land action took place at York on the 10th of March, at an area of woodland which has just received planning permission to become a shopping centre, selling discount factory outlet goods to consumers who will be expected to drive from up to 70 miles away just to get there!

There will be a much larger land occupation in York from the 5th to the 7th May, to coincide with the action in London. It will be at one of the 5 sites around the ring road which have had planning permission pushed through for traffic inducing 'development' projects in the last few months. Meet at Clifford's tower, York at 12 noon May 5th. Bring spades, guitars, etc. For more details contact York Earth First! on 01904 634073.

EDITORIAL

Oh shit! What have we let ourselves in for taking on the Action Update after Cardiff? As you can see from the change of address it has moved to the 'beautiful' city of London. For your information and to clear up any confusion that may arise the Action Update is not being put out by Reclaim the Streets but by a bunch of London Earth First!ers who, for convenience, are using the RTS post box; so please don't call the RTS office with news/messages for the Action Update! The number to call if you'd like to get in touch is 0171 249 9114.

While we're on the subject, could all groups who are currently on the contacts list get in touch over the next few weeks and say hello. This is partly to confirm you that you still exist, but also to give us an opportunity to check the number of Action Updates you require each month, so that hopefully we can save money on unnecessary printing and postage costs.

With summer, and a number of large events approaching, we'd like to be able to distribute copies of the Action Update to people who may never have seen it before, but we are in desperate need of funds. As you are probably aware, the Action Update is financed entirely by the proceeds of crime, so rob a bank, loot a government building, but please, if you can afford it, send us some money.

And finally...much respect to the Cardiff Action Update crew – you did an excellent job. See you all soon.

EVENTS

April

- 19 National demo against live exports in Dover. Tel: 01843 227186
- 19 - 21 Women Speak Out Against the Military Chain' 10th Anniversary of Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster, Sellafield Women's Peace Camp. Tel: 01706 371387.
- 19 FAN, Start of 2 weeks of actions/events, contact Manchester EF! Tel: 0161 274 4665.
- 20 National Demo Against the Asylum Bill. Assemble 11am, Embankment London SW1. Tel: 0171 247 9907.
- 23 Weeklong land occupation in Sherwood Forest, Tel: 0585 620714.
- 22-26 Faslane Peace Camp. Chernobyl Remembrance Actions. Tel: 01436 820901.
- 27 Sat Cardiff - 2 years of CJA resistance/Anti Cardiff Bay Barrage Action. Close Down Campsfield. Meet at the Gates at Noon. Kidlington, Oxfordshire. Tel: 01865 724452.

May

- 1 British Aerospace AGM Tel: 0161 834 0295.
- 5 - 12 Land is Ours - urban land occupation, S E England Tel: 01865 722016.
- 10 - 12 Big Beltane Celebrations plus actions/workshops at Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp. Tel: 01222 396563.
- 15 Shell AGM, London, Tel: 01865 721224. ClimateAction Day, contact Scottish Youth Forest Action, Tel: 0131557 6997.
- 18 Sat Devonshire Green Festival. Tel: 0114 2534548.
- 20 - 30 Actions & workshops - 2nd anniversary of women's peace camp at Menwith Hill US spy base, Tel: 01943 468593.
- 25 Start of Hackney Anarchy week in London, Tel: 0171 241 0412.
- 31 Midland Bank AGM (London), contact LAMB on 0161 274 4665.

June

- 12 - 18 Earth First! Summer Gathering - details to be announced.
- 15 - 16 Faslane Peace Camp 14th Anniversary Actions. Tel: 01436 820901.
- 19 - 23 International Whaling Commission meeting in Aberdeen.

July

- 13 London Reclaim the Streets massive Street Festival, contact 0171 281 4621.
- 24 - 28 Big Green Gathering, Wiltshire, Tel 01722 412457.

STREET PARTY!

Street Party '96 - A Festival of Resistance! Saturday 13th July. London Reclaim the Streets are currently planning the "biggest, freest, most spectacular Street Party yet". If you'd like to get involved there will be an open meeting on April 23rd, help is needed with all aspects of the party, from street decorations to catering, contact RTS for info on the meeting: 0171 281 4621.

CS GAS

CS gas as used by the brutal Metropolitan Police Force in London has claimed it's first victim. Ibrahima Sey, 29, was arrested by officers from Forest Gate police station in London. He was taken to Ilford police station then moved to Kings George Hospital, in Ilford where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

FRESH AIR NOW!

FAN have two full weeks of actions planned, starting on April 19th. Events and actions will include a conference on the impact of Air Travel, a demo at Manchester airport, an Alternative Careers Fair and Critical Mass. On the 27th there will be a 'Challenge Anarchy Day' where a piece of wasteland in Mossside will be turned into a kids playground. For more info please call 0161 274 4665.

MC LIBEL

The McLibel Trial, now scheduled to last until the end of this year, is currently listening to evidence on McDonald's connections to rainforests destruction. Ray Cesca (McDonalds Director of Global Purchasing) said in court that "McDonald's opened the first of it's restaurants in Costa Rica in December 1970" and that the meat supplied to them since that time "comes from ranches in areas which were deforested in the 1950's and early 1960's". Howard Lyman, a fourth generation cattle rancher from Montana (USA), now an environmentalist, recently testified for the defence on the effects of cattle ranching on the environment and the animals.



LAMB

As the Action Update goes to press there will hopefully be lots of awkward questions being asked at the Lloyds/TSB AGM in Edinburgh. For those wanting to attend the upcoming Midland Bank AGM as shareholders, please call LAMB ASAP on 0161 274 4665. It is to be held at the Barbican Centre, London on May 31st.

NEW WOMEN PRISONS

At Eastwood Park Prison, near Bristol, the new cells, at 6 ft x 6 ft, are 30% smaller than the prison service's own 1994 guidelines. Cells as

small as this were condemned as degrading and inhumane by a Royal Commission in 1878. 56% of women prisoners have mental health problems (Home Office study '91). Such inhumane conditions are bound to increase the already high rate of suicide attempts & self harm among women prisoners. Info on protests /petitions/leaflets telephone 0117 909 9448, Womens International for Peace and Freedom.

TREES FOR LIFE

Due to trees cut for fuel and timber and to convert the land for agricultural use, less than 1% of the huge boreal Caledonian Forest that used to cover much of the Scottish Highlands remains. Trees for life are aiming to restore 1500 square kilometers of the forest to its natural state, including re-introduction of native wildlife such as Wolves. They run volunteer work weeks throughout the year, contact 01309 691292 for info.

RUSSIA

On March 5th, the Rainbow keepers held a peaceful demonstration against a high speed railway. Six of them were arrested. All the action involved was standing by the side of the road. Luckily in this case, it was well covered by media, and police released the activists after 4 hours.

BELGIUM

In Brussels, there was a demo on March 9th in solidarity with the Aspe Valley in the Pyrenees, one of the few remaining habitats of the European Brown Bear. The demo had been forbidden, but this did not stop 250 protesters from showing up. There was no trouble with police.

TAHITI

Two British companies, Granada and Meridian are contracted to market and manage a huge hotel complex which is being built on a site of international archaeological importance in a fragile coral lagoon eco-system. You can express your displeasure by phoning Granada on 0171 451 3000. Meridian are based in Hong Kong but have connections here.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE EF! ACTION UPDATE

Please send me the next twelve copies of the EF! Action Update, here is my Minimum Contribution of £5 - not in cash, cheques made payable to Earth First! Donations above £5, for those who can afford it, enable us to reply to enquiries and give free subscriptions to free information networks, libraries, Grassroots and Community Groups etc. Please send more if you can. False names are always good for a laugh and security, also postal orders are more secure than cheques.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Send to: EF! AU Subscriptions, PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY

